

Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2012

Members in Attendance: Mike Rademacher, John Thompson, Rachel Buonopane, Janice Dallas, Susan James, Heidi Hample

Members Absent: Kerrie Fallon, Maureen St. Hilaire, Molly Flueckiger

Others Present: Jack Jones, Joey Glusko, Marion Leeds Carroll

Sidewalk Bylaw: J. Glushko wrote up suggestion and discussed them with Massachusetts Commission for disability. They reported that the town's bylaws should not be more restrictive than the state, and that we needed to be careful with the wording. The state suggested that people could get permits to use these adaptive vehicles.

This sparked a debate amongst the board with some of the following questions being posed. Why would we have people get permits in this town when they don't need to throughout the state? Wouldn't this be more restrictive? Who would be responsible for reviewing for permit application? Why are we proposing a new bylaw, as opposed to town counselor clarifying the bylaw and our committee approving/supporting?

Members concerned regarding extra restriction on the disabled population. Concerned that where this has not been an issue already with the police and town officials, why go through this lengthy process? Further discussed education vs new regulations. Could we educate the public regarding, "reasonable accommodation for disability"?

What should we do? Nothing, permits, suggestion of beta test of having Marion be the tester using placards to identify the tricycle. Education vs permits (restrictions). Suggested possible educational article in the advocate regarding education to town members. Potentially with a photograph. Education to public at Town day event.

Thank you to Marion and Joey for attending our last few meeting to collaborate on this project.

Curb Cut Ramp Project

Working way up to Medford St.

Looking to resurface Mass ave from AHS to Brattle, some curb intersections that need to be fixed/put in. Could they use some of the Disability funds for this? Commission approves via vote.

Mass Ave corridor project on target to begin in the spring.

Project at 5 way intersection Park Ave, Lowell st, Bow St, Park Ave ext to go out for bid.
Concerns regarding timing of project to be close to start of school with nearby elementary school as well daycare.

Project on Academy St. May not have the time to complete project, and still deciding on the bricks over cement. Will do smaller section of Academy between Maple and Mass Ave hopefully in the next few weeks. Bricks- What designates the historical time period to maintain in a particular area.

Patching road work being done...vehicle for requesting work. On town website, can request for public work, high way division...explain problem and then the report status can be checked.

Town Day September 15,2012

Members to volunteer: Jack, John, Rachel, Susan(1), Heidi?, Janice (possible time, will be at chronic pain booth), ...

John will bring service dog (Wexler), Rachel to bring adult tricycle and manual wheelchair, Susan brought in suicide prevention cards to hand out.

Free item, pens!

"I'm disabled but I am not handicapped until you put a barrier in front of me", John Thompson.

Other Business

Curb cuts near Robbins Farm, and mobilizing on grass. John brought in information called Rec Path. It is a portable pathway that is lightweight and can be rolled out. We could pitch to town to be used at various events throughout the year.

Chronic pain meeting: (meet at library) Truck parked in handicap spot to unload materials and was given permission from the library. Janice spoke up regarding this and advocated that it was inappropriate and illegal. The director of the library came down and apologized to Janice and stated that it will not happen again. Nice advocacy Janice!!

Heidi interested in looking at access to town hall building. John to assist with project to check access and may also make a video.

TO DO:

Attend, volunteer at Town Day event on Sept 15, 2012

Next Meeting: September 19, 2012